

News

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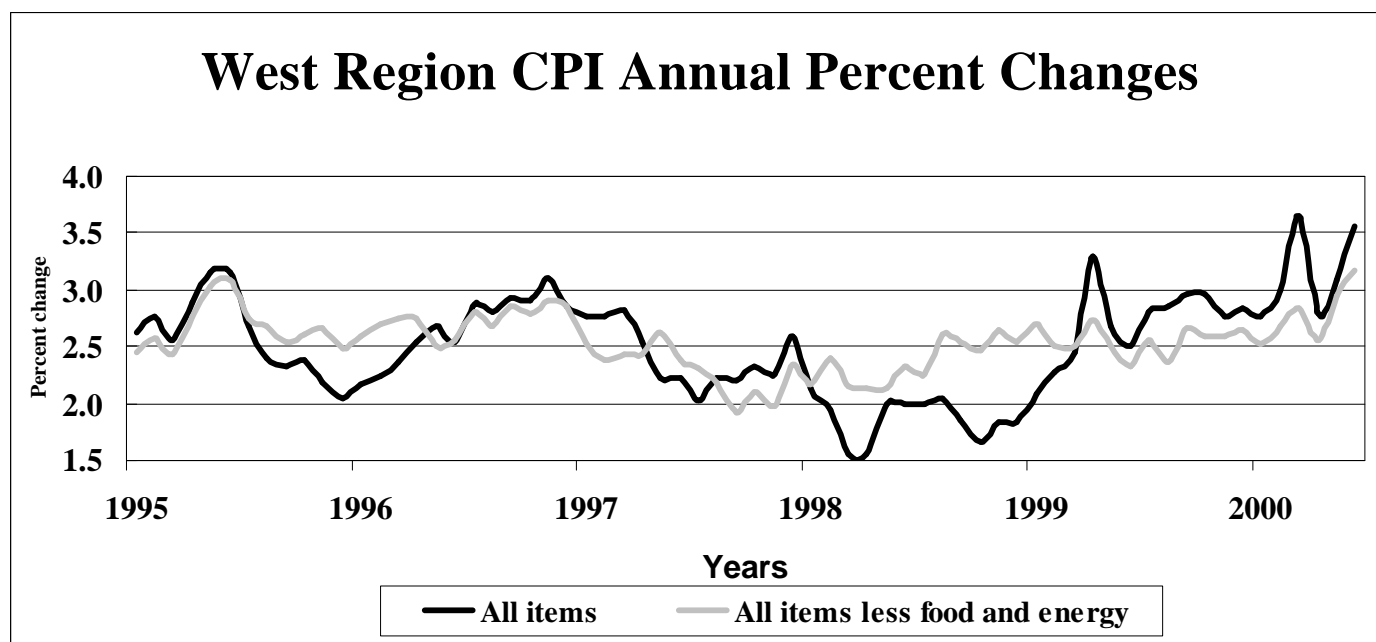
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – JUNE 2000

Prices paid for goods and services purchased by consumers in the thirteen westernmost states advanced 0.2 percent in June, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rising 0.5 percent, the housing expenditure category, influenced by shelter costs, made the predominant contribution to the advance of the overall index, according to Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson. Year-to-date, the all items index increased 2.2 percent compared to 1.5 percent for the respective period in 1999. Since June 1999, the overall index in the West increased 3.6 percent. The all items less food and energy index, or "core rate", advanced 3.2 percent over-the-year. Regional area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

Providing strong upward pressure to the all items index, both housing and shelter costs rose 0.5 percent in June, and measure 3.8 percent above their levels of a year ago. Within shelter, both rent of primary residence and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 0.3 percent over-the-month. However, during the past 12 months, renters' costs have increased 4.1 percent, while homeowners' costs advanced 3.2 percent. Also contributing to the upward pressure in higher housing



costs, the fuels and utilities component moved up 1.4 percent. Influenced by the seasonal change in baseline allowance, utility natural gas costs jumped 2.9 percent this month, after posting a 6.0 percent increase in May. Electricity advanced 1.5 percent in June, following a 3.1 percent gain the previous month. Over-the-year, utility natural gas costs have climbed 16.1 percent, while electricity costs have risen 2.5 percent.

Prices for food and beverages moved up 0.5 percent for the month, and are 2.0 percent higher than a year ago. Grocery prices rose 0.6 percent in June, following no change in May. The costs for groceries, as measured by the food at home index, showed a 1.9 increase since June 1999. Over-the-month, the cost of dining out advanced a modest 0.2 percent. Prices paid for alcoholic beverages rebounded in June by increasing 0.7 percent, following two consecutive months of decreases, 0.1 percent in April and 0.3 percent in May.

Medical care costs rise for the second month in a row, 0.4 percent in June and 0.5 percent in May. Compared to a year ago, medical care costs have advanced 4.1 percent.

Despite recent months of price volatility within the transportation index, overall transportation costs remained unchanged in June. However, over-the-year transportation costs are 6.3 percent higher. Gasoline prices showed a modest decline of 0.2 percent in June, after registering a 4.4 percent dip the previous month. However, consumers are paying 19.6 percent more for gasoline than a year ago. Following three consecutive months of modest increases, new and used motor vehicles prices declined 0.3 percent in June.

Of the major expenditure categories, apparel provided the strongest downward pressure to the overall index. Apparel prices fell 2.6 percent in June, offsetting the 0.7 percent increase the previous month. Following seasonal patterns, the apparel index has declined each June since 1983.

The recreation category inched up 0.1 percent, while education and communication costs decreased 0.1 percent. During the past year, costs for recreation increased 2.2 percent and education and communication costs advanced 1.0 percent. Costs of other goods and services, which includes tobacco and smoking products, declined 0.2 percent in June, yet posted a gain of 4.2 percent from a year ago.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stands at 174.3 (1982-84=100). This indicates a market basket of goods and services costing \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$174.30 in June 2000.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Expenditure category						
All items	173.7	173.9	174.3	3.6	0.3	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	280.8	281.2	281.7	-	-	-
Food and beverages	170.0	170.1	170.9	2.0	0.5	0.5
Food	169.2	169.3	170.1	2.0	0.5	0.5
Food at home	173.0	173.0	174.1	1.9	0.6	0.6
Food away from home	163.8	164.1	164.5	2.2	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	179.6	179.1	180.3	2.9	0.4	0.7
Housing	174.4	174.9	175.8	3.8	0.8	0.5
Shelter	193.9	194.1	195.0	3.8	0.6	0.5
Rent of primary residence (1).....	185.8	186.4	187.0	4.1	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	203.7	204.0	204.7	3.2	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities	140.6	144.7	146.7	5.3	4.3	1.4
Fuels	127.3	132.2	134.6	6.3	5.7	1.8
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	129.8	134.9	137.4	6.2	5.9	1.9
Electricity (1).....	139.7	144.1	146.2	2.5	4.7	1.5
Utility natural gas service (1).....	121.6	128.9	132.6	16.1	9.0	2.9
Household furnishings and operations	130.8	130.5	130.8	2.4	0.0	0.2
Apparel	122.7	123.5	120.3	-0.7	-2.0	-2.6
Transportation	156.6	155.8	155.8	6.3	-0.5	0.0
Private transportation	151.0	149.8	149.7	5.3	-0.9	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles (3).....	101.5	101.7	101.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.3
New vehicles	143.7	143.4	142.8	1.0	-0.6	-0.4
New cars and trucks (3) (4).....	100.0	99.8	99.3	0.9	-0.7	-0.5
New cars (4).....	139.4	139.2	138.7	0.7	-0.5	-0.4
Used cars and trucks	151.0	152.3	152.6	3.7	1.1	0.2
Motor fuel	136.3	130.2	130.0	19.6	-4.6	-0.2
Gasoline (all types)	135.1	129.1	128.9	19.6	-4.6	-0.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....	132.7	126.7	127.3	21.5	-4.1	0.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....	130.7	124.8	124.1	18.3	-5.0	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....	134.7	129.0	127.9	17.0	-5.0	-0.9
Medical care	255.4	256.8	257.9	4.1	1.0	0.4
Medical care commodities	239.9	243.0	242.5	3.5	1.1	-0.2
Medical care services	259.2	260.1	261.6	4.3	0.9	0.6
Professional services (1).....	218.3	219.2	219.5	3.2	0.5	0.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
Expenditure category						
Recreation (3).....	101.1	102.0	102.1	2.2	1.0	0.1
Education and communication (3).....	101.0	101.0	100.9	1.0	-0.1	-0.1
Other goods and services	274.3	273.4	272.8	4.2	-0.5	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	173.7	173.9	174.3	3.6	0.3	0.2
Commodities	149.6	149.3	149.0	2.8	-0.4	-0.2
Commodities less food and beverages	137.1	136.6	135.8	3.3	-0.9	-0.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	146.2	144.6	143.4	5.1	-1.9	-0.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	164.2	161.2	161.1	7.8	-1.9	-0.1
Durables	126.2	126.9	126.7	1.2	0.4	-0.2
Services	195.6	196.3	197.2	4.1	0.8	0.5
Rent of shelter (2)	205.9	206.0	207.0	3.9	0.5	0.5
Transportation services	198.7	200.1	200.5	5.0	0.9	0.2
Other services	223.0	223.5	223.7	3.1	0.3	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	169.3	169.5	169.8	3.5	0.3	0.2
All items less food	174.6	174.8	175.1	3.8	0.3	0.2
All items less shelter	166.7	167.0	167.1	3.4	0.2	0.1
Commodities less food	139.1	138.6	137.9	3.4	-0.9	-0.5
Nondurables	158.6	157.8	157.6	3.4	-0.6	-0.1
Nondurables less food	148.8	147.3	146.2	4.9	-1.7	-0.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	165.2	162.4	162.4	7.2	-1.7	0.0
Services less rent of shelter (2)	204.0	205.5	206.3	4.2	1.1	0.4
Services less medical care services	190.2	190.9	191.7	4.0	0.8	0.4
Energy	130.5	129.5	130.4	13.0	-0.1	0.7
All items less energy	178.8	179.2	179.5	3.0	0.4	0.2
All items less food and energy	181.1	181.5	181.7	3.2	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	143.1	143.4	142.6	1.2	-0.3	-0.6
Energy commodities	137.2	131.3	131.1	19.5	-4.4	-0.2
Services less energy services	200.4	200.8	201.6	3.9	0.6	0.4

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

4 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

5 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.